



Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE NODE

Issue

The USGS budget for FY 2001 includes funding for development of nodes for the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) and related issues. The NBII is a broad, collaborative program to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. A portion of these funds (\$150,000) is designated to initiate development of an NBII node in a collaborative effort between the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. Full development of such a node will require increased funding to approximately \$1 million per year over the next several years. The node will provide access to data and information to a myriad of Federal and state agencies, local governments, universities, and non-government entities. The focus will be the Greater Yellowstone Area, with potential expansion to other reaches of the Northern Rockies, including Canada.

Major Partnership and Customer Opportunities

The proposed NBII node will be developed in partnership with Montana State University, complementing rather than duplicating a wide range of efforts by agencies and institutions to serve regional information through Geographic Information Systems and the National Biological Information Infrastructure Clearinghouse Node. In addition to contributing to the partnership with Montana State University, additional partnerships will be developed with several Federal agencies, including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, state natural resource agencies, local county governments, and several non-federal entities, as well as other universities in the region.



Objectives and New Products

The NBII node for the Greater Yellowstone Area will be developed to provide a location for scientific information about wildlife and its relationship to habitat, human activities, and ecosystem processes in the region. There is a high degree of public interest in the environmental effects of changes in land use in the area, where priorities for recreation, agriculture, forestry, urban development, and other needs are difficult to reconcile. By providing easy access to authoritative scientific information, the USGS will help support better decisions by resource managers and others.



Plans for future expansion of the NBII node include further research into the cause-and-effect relationships that determine the condition of wildlife populations in the Greater Yellowstone Area, and development of predictive models that can be accessed through the node to explore potential outcomes of resource management options.

USGS Role

The USGS will develop an NBII node for the Greater Yellowstone Area, based at the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center. This will be a regional node providing access to a wide range of biological information in a geographic context. The node will build upon existing programs of the USGS, Montana State University, and other partners. These programs include the Greater Yellowstone National Spatial Data Initiative, the Greater Yellowstone Data Clearinghouse maintained by Montana State University, and the Digital Atlas of the Greater Yellowstone Area.

For further information contact

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